

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INR-10 NSAE-00 /057 W
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R 041216Z MAY 78
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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06764

E.O. 11653: N/A
TAGS: HA
SUBJ: MEETING WITH AMB TRUCCO OF CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

REF: GENEVA 5939

FROM AMB VANDEN HEUVEL

1. MANUEL TRUCCO, AMBASSADOR OF CHILE, MET WITH ME THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEMS WITH THE UNHCR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT REPRESENTATIVE MEZVINSKY'S TRIP TO SANTIAGO HAD HAD "EXCELLENT RESULTS." HE DESCRIBED THE OCCASION AS THE FIRST TIME THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WITH SOMEONE WHO HAD A UN IDENTIFICATION AND WHO WAS NOT AN "IDEALOGUE" TRUCCO BELIEVES THAT MEZVINSKY HAS PLAYED A MOST CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE ALTHOUGH HE IS QUICK TO RECOGNIZE THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE RESULTS CAN BE DESCRIBED AS SUCCESSFUL.

2. TRUCCO SAID THAT MIGUEL SCHWEITZER JR., A CHILEAN
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LAWYER WHO PERFORMS FREQUENT GOVERNMENTAL MISSIONS SAW IRMACORA AND DIEYE, MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, AFTER MEZVINSKY'S VISIT TO SANTIAGO AND REPORTED TO THEM ON THE PROGRESS THAT WAS BEING MADE. THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE THOUGHT THIS WAS IMPORTANT EVEN THOUGH MEZVINSKY HAD APPARENTLY TALKED PERSONALLY TO BOTH OF THESE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT FEEL

THAT SOMETHING WAS BEING DONE SURREPTIOUSLY. GOC ALSO FELT THAT MEZVINSKY'S SPEECH BEFORE ECOSOC WAS CONSTRUCTIVE.

3. THE GOC IS PREPARED TO MEET THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP IN EITHER NEW YORK OR GENEVA, ALTHOUGH IT PREFERENCES NEW YORK. IT BELIEVES THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION SHOULD WEIGH THE MERITS OF THE MEETING PLACE. ITS OWN ATTITUDE IS NOT ADAMANT. CONCERN ABOUT THE SITE OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE WG HAS ALSO BEEN EXPRESSED BY INTERESTED PARTIES IN GENEVA. THEY EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT GENEVA, WHERE MEETING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD, WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE FOR SUCH DELICATE TALKS. THERE WOULD BE FEWER PRESSURES ON THE WG, THE HR DIVISION AND THE GOC. THERE ARE ALSO FEARS THAT A PRESS LEAK AROUND THE ALLANA SCENARIO MIGHT LEAD TO A NEGATIVE REACTION BY THE WG.

4. TRUCCO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING OUT THE CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES OF THE WORKING GROUP'S VISIT TO CHILE. HE SAID AGAIN THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GO WHEREVER THEY WANT BUT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE VISIT BE PRIVATE AND WITHOUT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE ARRIVAL SO THAT HOSTILE GROUPS CANNOT ORGANIZE EVENTS OR INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE DESTRUCTIVE. GOC ALSO EXPECTS THAT, IF SUCH A VISIT GOES FORWARD, THIS WILL END THE MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP AND THE QUESTION OF CHILE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL BE RETURNED TO THE NORMAL PROCEDURES OF THE HRC. I REMINDED TRUCCO THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE WORKING GROUP TO PRE-JUDGE ITS FINDINGS OR RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOC MIGHT HAVE THIS EXPECTATION IT SHOULD NOT BURDEN ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WORKING GROUP BY ESTABLISHING IT AS A PRE-CONDITION. TRUCCO ALSO SAID THAT THE WG VISIT TO CHILE SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE AGREEMENT RELATING TO ITS VISIT SO AS TO AVOID "HOSTILE ACTS" THAT WILL DISTURB ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

5. AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE GOC ATTITUDE, TRUCCO INFORMED ME THAT NICHOLAS VALTICOS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ILO, WILL LEAVE FOR CHILE ON MAY 5 TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS RELATED TO THE VIOLATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS (GENEVA 5192). SINCE VALTICOS IS KNOWN AS A PERSON OF INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE, THE GOC EXPECTS THIS VISIT WILL BE ACCEPTED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO WELCOME OBJECTIVE STUDIES AND OBSERVATIONS.

6. A CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED HERE ABOUT BENITES (ECUADOR) AND HIS ROLE IN THE WG IF ALLANA DECIDES

AGAINST GOING TO CHILE. MISSION GENEVA SHARED THIS CONCERN SINCE IT APPEARS THAT BENITES WAS NOT ONE OF THE WG MEMBERS CONTACTED FOLLOWING MEZVINSKY'S VISIT TO SANTIAGO. BENITES IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED DIPLOMAT. HE ALSO HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING TEMPERAMENTAL AND STUBBORN. IF HE FEELS THAT HE HAS BEEN BYPASSED IN THIS LATEST INITIATIVE, THERE IS CONCERN THAT HE MIGHT REFUSE TO COOPERATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS, THUS WEAKENING THE WG IN THE EYES OF THE HRC. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE ACTION REGARDING BENITES IF IT IS TRUE THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED.

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7. THERE HAVE BEEN REACTIONS FROM SEVERAL MISSIONS IN GENEVA REGARDING THE US INITIATIVE. GENERALLY THEY RANGE FROM ENTHUSIASM TO QUIET APPROVAL TO SKEPTICISM. IF THE INITIATIVE SUCCEEDS, THERE WILL BE 100 FATHERS. IF IT FAILS, IT WILL BE AN ORPHAN. VANDEN HEUVEL

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